

In the Specification

Please make the following amendment on page 1, line 4, of the first paragraph:

This invention refers to a tray for the transportation of products, which is extremely resistant strong and can be transported with a substantially flat configuration.

Please make the following amendments to the **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION** section beginning on page 1:

Cardboard trays for the transportation of products, such as fruit, are formed by a sheet equipped with a series of folding lines, which define the bottom of the tray, the headers and the sides.

An important characteristic of these trays is that they must be extremely resistant strong and indestructible so as to tolerate the transportation and bear a great capacity. Therefore, some of the trays that are currently known comprise a top flap over each header, which extends horizontally towards the inner area of the tray.

One drawback which present some of the trays that are currently known is their inability to be folded once they are assembled, which means they have to be assembled immediately before their use or transported already assembled but empty. The latter option is a serious inconvenience as trays take up a lot of space.

So as to solve these inconveniences, different trays for the transportation of products have been designed, such as, for example, the one described in the application for Spanish utility model

U9403323. This document describes a tray equipped with ~~said~~ the top flaps on the headers and which comprises inclined folding lines on its sides that allow the folding of the tray, adopting a substantially flat configuration. Thanks to this substantially flat configuration, the tray can be transported empty taking up very little space.

However, the tray described in this utility model entails the inconvenience that its resistance strength is not appropriate. Thanks to the presence of the top flaps, the headers are very resistant strong, but the presence of inclined folding lines on the sides makes it less resistant strong.

Please make the following amendments to the **DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION** section beginning on page 2:

The tray for the transportation of products of the invention manages to solve the aforementioned inconveniences, and presents other advantages that will be described hereunder.

The tray for the transportation of products of the invention is formed by a sheet provided with a series of folding lines that define:

- the bottom of the tray;
- a couple of headers;
- a couple of sides;
- a polygonal column on each of the corners; and
- two top flaps, each of which extends horizontally from one of the headers to the inner area of the tray;

the tray also comprises inclined folding lines that allow the folding of the headers and the sides on the bottom of the tray;

and it is characterised in that said wherein the inclined folding lines are located on the headers and on said the top flaps.

Thanks to this characteristic, the tray of the invention is very resistant strong and, at the same time, can be transported in a substantially flat position, thus taking up very little space.

Advantageously, each header and top flap comprise two inclined folding lines, that extend from the bottom corners of the header substantially to the centre of the top part of the same.

In order for the tray to be even more resistant strong, each top flap comprises a couple of side flaps that are attached to the outer part of the sides, thus avoiding that the side becomes detached if subjected to excessive tensile force. Furthermore, it allows a reduced internal thickness between the columns and the sides, which facilitates the folding of the tray for its transportation.

Preferably, each top flap comprises a couple of additional folding lines that extend from the corners in contact with the headers towards the inner area of the tray, in the assembly position.

In order to make the tray of this invention even more resistant strong, each column could present an orifice on the top flaps through which an a reinforcement element member could be inserted in said the columns.

If so desired, each orifice can comprise an articulated tongue, which is accommodated inside the column after inserting said the reinforcement element member. Thanks to this tongue, the inner side of the orifice which the tongue is articulated to, becomes much more resistant strong.

According to a preferred embodiment, said the columns are triangular and the side defined by the hypotenuse of said the triangle comprises a vertical folding line.

According to two alternative embodiments, said the reinforcement element member is a triangular plaque or prism formed by a laminar element.

In order for said the sides to also have the appropriate resistance strength, said the sides have a double thickness.

Please make the following amendments to the **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** section beginning on page 3:

So as to enable a better understanding of the terms stated above, a series of drawings have been included to, schematically and illustratively, represent a practical case of the embodiment.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a fourth of the sheet that forms the tray of the invention when unfolded;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one of the corners of the tray of the invention during assembly;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the corners of the tray of the invention in its upright usage position;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a corner of the tray of the invention that comprises an a reinforcement element member in the columns of the same tray, in accordance with a first

embodiment;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a corner of the tray of the invention, in accordance with a second embodiment, including an orifice with an articulated tongue;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a corner of the tray of the invention, that comprises an a reinforcement element member in the columns of the same tray, in accordance with said the second embodiment; and

Figure 7 is a plan view of one of the halves of the tray of the invention in its substantially flat transportation position.

Please make the following amendments to the **DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT** section beginning on page 4:

As can be appreciated in figure 1, the tray of the invention is formed by a sheet, preferably made of cardboard, that comprises a plurality of folding lines which, once assembled, define a bottom 1, a couple of sides headers 2, a couple of headers sides 3, a triangular column 4 on each corner of the tray, and a top flap 6 on each header, each said top flap 6 extends horizontally towards the inner area of the tray.

Furthermore, according to the embodiment presented, the represented tray also comprises a side flap 8 on each side of the top flaps 6 and orifices 10 located on the top flaps 6 in correspondence with columns 4. In accordance with the represented embodiment, the width of the side

flaps 8 is substantially wider than the width of the top flaps 6. These orifices 10, as will be described below in depth, are used to insert elements for reinforcement 11, 12 in columns 4.

The side of the columns defined by the hypotenuse of said the triangle comprises a vertical folding line 5 that allows the folding of the tray once assembled, together with the folding lines described hereunder. If the columns 4 are not triangular, there must be a vertical folding line that enables the folding of the tray.

Headers 2 also comprise inclined folding lines 7, 9 to enable the folding of the tray once assembled. The tray, once assembled and folded, has a substantially flat configuration (represented in figure 6) that is ideal for its transportation when empty, taking up very little room.

From the unfolded sheet shown in figure 1, in the first place the columns 4 are erected, sticking one of their sides to the headers 2. Subsequently, the sides 3, which have a double thickness, are stuck to said the columns 4, and the top flaps 6 are folded towards the headers, adopting their definitive horizontal position. Finally, side flaps 8 are stuck on the outer area of the sides 3.

In the case of the represented embodiment, column 4 is formed on the headers 2. However, if so desired, the columns 4 could evidently also be formed on the sides 3.

Once assembled, the tray presents the configuration represented in figure 3. In order to increase the ~~resistance~~ strength of the tray of the invention, ~~an a~~ reinforcement element member 11 can be inserted in each column 4 through an orifice 10. Figure 4 includes the representation of ~~an~~ the reinforcement element member 11 with a plaque shape $\dagger\dagger$ and, in this case, the orifice 10 is shaped like a slot.

Alternatively, as represented in figure 5, the a reinforcement element member 12 could be shaped like a triangular prism, which is inserted in column 4 through a triangular orifice 10. In this case, said the triangular prism is formed by a laminar element, that can be transported unfolded taking up very little room.

It is important to state that it is not essential to insert the elements for reinforcement members 11, 12 in columns 4, given that the tray of the invention is already extremely resistant strong even without said the elements for reinforcement members 11, 12. Evidently, if the tray is to be used without said the elements for reinforcement members 11, 12, orifices 10 are not needed in correspondence with the columns.

As can be seen on figure 5, the orifice 10 can comprise an articulated tongue 13 that is accommodated inside the column when the reinforcement element member 12 is inserted. Although this is not essential, the presence of the tongue 13 is designed for use with triangular orifices 10.

As aforementioned, the tray of the invention can take on an assembled and folded configuration, as can be appreciated in figure 6. To achieve this, each header 2 and its corresponding top flap 6 comprise two inclined folding lines 7 that extend from each bottom corner of the header 2 substantially to the top centre of the top flap 6, as can be appreciated in the figures. Furthermore, each top flap 6 also comprises a couple of additional inclined folding lines 9 that extend from the corners in contact with the headers 2 to the inner area of the tray, in the assembly position.

The presence of these folding lines 7, 9 and of the vertical folding lines 5 of the columns 4 allow headers 2 and sides 3 to be folded on the bottom 1, with which the tray acquires a substantially flat configuration.

Thus, the tray of the invention can be transported taking up very little room, as it can be placed in its usage position by simply unfolding the headers 2 and the sides 3 and, if required, inserting the elements for reinforcement members 11, 12 in the corresponding orifices 10.

Although this refers to a specific embodiment of the invention, obviously a person skilled in the art will know that the tray for the transportation of products described herein may undergo many variations and modifications and that all the details mentioned may be replaced by others that are technically equivalent, without departing from the scope of protection defined by the claims attached.

Please make the following amendment to the **ABSTRACT** on page 10 of the specification:

The A tray comprises comprising a bottom (1) of the tray; a couple of headers (2); a couple of sides (3); a polygonal column (4) on each of its corners; and two top flaps (6), each of which extends horizontally from one of the headers (2) to the inner area of the tray; the is provided. The tray also comprises inclined folding lines (7) that allow the folding of the headers (2) and the sides (3) on the bottom (1) of the tray; and it is characterised in that said wherein the inclined folding lines (7) are located on the headers (2) and on said the top flaps (6). The tray is very resistant strong and, at the same time, can be transported substantially flat, occupying a reduced space.